



Portumna Castle & Gardens followed by visit to lakeside village of Terryglass. #10



Built by the fourth earl of Clanricarde in around 1618, Portumna Castle was the de Burgo family power base for centuries.

The castle is a unique example of the transitional Irish architecture of the early 1600s. Its bold design combines elements of medieval and Renaissance style that complement each other perfectly.

A major fire in 1826 left the castle a roofless shell, but the state began to bring it back from ruin in the 1960s. Restoration work continues to this day.

The dramatic walk up to the building includes charming formal gardens, which create an enchanting sense of the original seventeenth-century setting. The walled kitchen garden is particularly memorable.

The castle enjoys a sensational view of Lough Derg. The ground floor is open to the public and houses an exhibition that brings the story of the castle and the de Burgo family to life. It is right beside the River Shannon and Portumna Forest Park, which makes it a great choice for a delightful day out.



Portumna Castle has formal, geometrically-laid gardens to the north. The Willow Maze incorporates several different willow varieties and its central path is lined with espalier fruit trees which are underplanted with lavender.

A 17th-century potager kitchen garden has been restored to its original splendour and organically planted with flowers, herbs, hollies, and vegetables. The garden offers the visitor an ideal opportunity to see and experience gardening layout and techniques of yesteryear.

Once you are finished at Portumna Castle, head to the wonderful village of TERRYGLASS on the lakeside for lunch and perhaps a swim in the lake.

For food, entertainment and atmosphere, the little village of Terryglass is the perfect stopping place for all those looking to experience the famous Irish 'craic'. The village has won numerous tourism awards and is a five-minute walk from the harbour. The scenery around this area is amongst the most stunning on the Shannon and a sunset witnessed from here is a truly special wonder.



The village has a strong reputation for food and the two award winning Bar and Restaurants located here are well known through out Ireland for their high standards and friendly atmosphere. These are Paddy's Bar and The Derg Inn. They have both been serving quality locally farmed traditional Irish food for the past 200 years and a trip along this part of the

Shannon is never complete without visiting. Open fires, velvet pints, Irish music and friendly banter is what Terryglass is famous for so make sure to stop for and enjoy an evening here.

The village has a long history dating back to the mid-6th century when an abbey was founded by Saint Columba, who was one of the twelve apostles of Ireland (pioneers of Christianity throughout Ireland). The famous Book of Leinster which is a Celtic treasure was scribed here by monks in the mid 12th century. Shortly after this time the abbey was burnt down by the ever-present Viking raiders. This book is currently housed at Trinity College Dublin. A wall from the abbey is still present in the town.